

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Madison Channel blockage LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	10/6/2008
Proponent:	West Madison Canal Company
Location:	7S 1W Sec.5
County:	Madison
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Install concrete blocks in side channel of the Madison River to reduce the flows down the channel, to allow for repair of a existing headgate & diversion Structure serving the West Madison Canal.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Alton Ranch Inc. is the dominant affected land owner, they are in support of the work that is being proposed.

Contacted Larry Gleason 10/2/2008 (682-4324). He is concerned about the affect on the fishery, but supports the project.

Contacted Roland Losee 10/2/08 (682-4267). Supports the project.

Letters were sent to the land owners that were unable to be contacted by phone; Dennis Reilly Family Trust, Dokson & Gale Arvanites trustee, Henry H. Kanemoto Trustee and Duane Thexton.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Madison County Conservation District, 310 permit

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, section 404 permit

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Proposed Alternative: Allow for the blocking of the channel with concrete blocking by granting a Land Use License.

No Action Alternative: do not grant the License.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The Madison River Naturally forks at the location of the proposed diversion structure placement, creating the main Madison River Channel and a secondary side channel. The structures will be placed across the secondary side channel. The river bottom is gravel with minimal slope, the only disturbance to the river bottom will be the placement of the barriers.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The Madison River flows North through this parcel. Turbidity and sedimentation should be minimal since no excavation would occur for placement of the barriers. No effect on water quality would be expected.

The purpose of this structure placement is to reduce the flow in the secondary channel of the Madison River, the flow will be reduced gradually and controlled by placing or removing the blocking structures as necessary.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

No lasting impacts to air quality would be expected.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur to vegetation as a result of the proposal due to the scope of the project affecting State Land.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

No direct or cumulative effects are expected to occur. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is cooperating on this project as part of the 310 permit application process, and is developing mitigations for possible impacts to be addressed as part of the 310 permit.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

No direct or cumulative impact to Threatened, Endangered or unique wildlife is anticipated as a result of the proposal due its limited scope.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

There are no known historical or archaeological sites in the area of construction.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

This is while the work is being completed the tops of the concrete barrier structures will be visible from the main channel of the Madison River.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

None.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.• Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.• Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

If the repairs aren't made to the headgate and diversion structures by the time the river starts freezing flooding could occur downstream.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

No additional activities.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The proposal would have no affect on quantity and distribution of employment.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

This proposal would cause no change the taxes.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

None.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

The tract is currently not zoned.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

No change to recreational access.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

The repairs would not require additional housing or impact population changes.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

none.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The license would generate \$150.00 in revenue for a Land Use License.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Craig Campbell/s/	Date: 10/02/2008
	Title: Bozeman Unit Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Action Alternative - Allow for the blocking of the channel with concrete blocking by granting a Land Use License.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No significant impact should occur from the granting of this license. This is a temporary action designed to allow the repair of existing headgate facilities which were damaged by high water flows this past spring. Upon completion of the repairs, the concrete blocking structures will be removed. The project is being conducted under appropriate permitting requirements and review of the Madison County Conservation District (310 Permit) and the Army Corps of Engineers (404 Permit)

- The disturbance associated with this license will be mitigated with the removal of the blocking structures
- The flows in the secondary channel can be increased or decreased as needed with placement or removal of blocking structures.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:☐

EIS

☐

More Detailed EA

☒

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Garry Williams
	Title: Area Manager, Central Land office
Signature: /S/ Garry Williams Date: 10/2/2008	